

Force, and led planning and preparation for hurricane response to the U.S. Virgin Islands.

An instrumental figure in protecting our nation's capital, Colonel McKinney led two task forces during the Presidential Inauguration and Operational Capitol Response II. We are eternally grateful for Colonel McKinney's leadership and the Michigan National Guard and their role in defending our Capitol and every person who works here.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Colonel Chris A. McKinney for his lifetime of invaluable service to this Nation. I join with Colonel McKinney's family—including his wife of thirty years, Terri, and his children Kate and Ryan—friends, and colleagues in extending my gratitude to him for his exemplary and honorable service to this country.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FEAST OF SAINT SEBASTIAN

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2021

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join the Saint Sebastian Church, its membership and the community of Middletown, Connecticut as they celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Feast of Saint Sebastian—a celebration of ethnic pride and culture that has grown to become a treasured community tradition.

The first immigrants from Melilli, Sicily arrived in the City of Middletown in 1895. Over the course of the next several decades, the number of Melillesi who came to call Middletown home grew exponentially, forming a tight-knit community in the City's North End. As the Melillesi families grew so did their desire to celebrate their rich history and tradition. Like in so many other Italian-American communities, they did so through the annual religious celebrations of the patron saint of their hometown, Saint Sebastian. This small neighborhood celebration has since grown into one of the City's most well-known and popular annual traditions.

By 1921, the annual Feast of Saint Sebastian had become a major event in the Sicilian community, attracting participants not only from Middletown but surrounding towns as well. It was in 1921 that the first official feast committee was formed and when the first statue of Saint Sebastian, a gift designed and sculpted by local laborer Sebastiano Marchese, was presented to the community. It was also from this first major Feast and its collection of funds, that the first steps toward the creation of the Saint Sebastian Church and Parish were taken. Just over a decade later, after approval from the diocese and the purchase of properties for the church and rectory, the cornerstone was placed and construction of Saint Sebastian Church was completed within a year. Today, Saint Sebastian Church, which almost mirrors its companion of the same name in Melilli, continues to be the heartbeat of Middletown's Italian-American community, and the Feast remains an annual tradition that the whole City looks forward to celebrating.

The Feast of Saint Sebastian, whose festivities now span three days, is a celebration of

the Melillesi culture. Booths provide food and drink, games and carnival rides entertain adults and children, and the main stage provides musical entertainment where many gather to sing and dance. Special masses are held and upon entering the Church one can view the statue of Saint Sebastian, often hearing chants of "Santo Sebastiano" as those gathered pray to the patron saint. And on the Sunday of the Feast, hundreds dressed all in white with red sashes attend the "I Nuri" running—the procession of Saint Sebastian. It is a remarkable sight to behold.

People across the country struggle to create a sense of community—a sense of belonging. Over the course of its one-hundred-year history, the Feast of Saint Sebastian has helped the families of Middletown's Melillesi immigrants and their descendants do just that. This year, as they mark its centennial anniversary, I am proud to stand and extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to all of those, past and present, who have made the Feast of Saint Sebastian such a special celebration. The bonds of community that the Feast has helped to shape will continue to impact generations to come.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF JUANA SEQUEIRA SOLIS

HON. JIMMY GOMEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2021

Mr. GOMEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today in memory of Juana Sequeira Solis who passed away on April 6, 2021 at the age of 94. She was born in 1926 in Nicaragua and was the eldest of five children.

In 1945, at the age of 18, she immigrated to the United States in search of a better life. In 1950, she moved to Los Angeles where she met her late husband, Raul S. Solis, while taking citizenship classes. The couple then married in October of 1953.

Mrs. Solis and her late husband raised seven children in the unincorporated area of La Puente, California.

She enjoyed cooking for her family and friends and was an avid gardener. The family was her focal point where she taught her children to give back to their community; stressed the importance of achieving a higher education; and preserving the environment.

Mrs. Solis was a devout Roman Catholic.

Mrs. Solis worked hard to provide for her children and was employed for over 20 years as an assembly line worker at Mattel Inc. until her retirement in 1991. She was an active union member with the United Rubber Workers.

Mrs. Solis is preceded in death by her beloved husband of 58 years, Raul S. Solis, who was a proud Teamster and her beloved daughter, Beatriz M. Solis, who served as the Director for Healthy Communities at the California Endowment.

She is survived by her children: Irma Rincon, Raul Solis, Jr., Hilda Solis, Victor Solis, Anna Solis, Leticia Solis and their spouses; 10 grandchildren, and 23 great-grandchildren.

She will be remembered for her kindness and fighting spirit. She will be deeply missed by all who knew her.

Madam Speaker, I ask that Members in the House Chamber please join me for a moment of silence to honor the life of Juana Sequeira Solis.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, April 22, 2021 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

APRIL 27

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine Department of Defense's management challenges and opportunities.

SD-G50

10 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Defense

To hold closed hearings to examine the Missile Defense Agency, focusing on a program update.

SVC-217

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Subcommittee on Consumer Protection, Product Safety, and Data Security

To hold hearings to examine curbing COVID cons, focusing on warning consumers about pandemic frauds, scams, and swindles.

SR-253

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine energy development on federal lands, focusing on the current status of the Department of the Interior's onshore oil and gas leasing program.

SD-366

Committee on Finance

To hold hearings to examine climate challenges, focusing on the tax code's role in creating American jobs, achieving energy independence, and providing consumers with affordable, clean energy.

WEBEX

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine supporting children, workers and families by strengthening America's child care sector.

SH-216